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DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
24 MASON STREET
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
02903

JOHN S. RENZA
DIRECTOR

EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EDWARD D. DI PRETE
GOVERNOR

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RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT TOTALS 461,400 IN DECEMBER

Overall Rhode Island establishment employment declined somewhat in December as a pre-holiday gain in Wholesale and Retail Trade was more than offset by seasonal decreases in the Manufacturing, Construction and Services sectors, reported John S. Renza, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Employment Security.

According to preliminary estimates prepared by the Department of Employment Security in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, Rhode Island employment totalled 461,400 in December. While this figure represents a drop of 2,000 from the November level of 463,400, it is 3,100 higher than the December 1987 total of 458,300.

MANUFACTURING

Total factory employment fell by 1,500 in the November-December period. In addition, the current level of 115,700 is 900 less than the year ago figure of 116,600. In the Durable Goods category, the December employment total of 79,700 dropped 900 from the prior month and was 800 below the figure reported a year earlier. Employment in the Nondurable Goods producing industries decreased 600 from last month to a level of 36,000, and was down 100 compared to the December 1987 total.

Within the Durable Goods category, the largest monthly job decline occurred in Jewelry-Silverware (-500). Furthermore, employment in Instruments was off 200 for the month, followed by downturns of 100 each in Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals

(Continued on page 4)

GOOD NEWS FOR R.I. EMPLOYERS! LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT TAXES IN '89

Rhode Island employers will save an estimated $11 million in Unemployment Insurance taxes in 1989 as a result of legislation passed two years ago which reduced Employment Security Fund reserve requirements for each of the nine possible Tax Schedules and the increased amount of E.S. Fund reserves which have accumulated due to the continued strength of the Rhode Island economy.

DES determines the specific Tax Schedule to be followed each year according to the financial condition of the E.S. Fund as of September 30 of the preceding year. Unemployment insurance benefits are paid out of this Fund.

Tax Schedule F, with individual employer rates ranging between 1.4 percent and 7.3 percent will be in effect in 1989, the second consecutive year that a tax schedule lower than the maximum allowed by law will be in effect. In 1988 R.I. employers paid taxes according to Schedule G with rates that ranged between 1.8 and 7.8 percent.

The 1989 tax rates have been reduced by 0.1 percent to offset the new Job Development Assessment which became effective on January 1, 1989.

The payroll tax for new employers - those who have not been subject to the Employment Security Act for three full experience years - will be 2.2 percent in 1989.

R.I. employers will be notified of their individual tax rates prior to April 1.

$$

(TAX REMINDER)

RHODE ISLAND JOB SERVICE OFFICES

BRISTOL COUNTY, 470 Metacom Ave	245-9300
EAST PROVIDENCE, 877 Broadway	277-3546
NEWPORT COUNTY, 73 Valley Road	
Middletown	847-3680
PAWTUCKET, 109 Main St	722-7500
PROVIDENCE, 130 West Exchange St	
Jewelry	277-3553
Manufacturing & Construction	277-3556
Professional & Clerical	277-3584
Temporary Help	277-3559
WAKEFIELD, Oliver Stedman Gov't. Center	
Tower Hill Road	789-9721
WARWICK, 50 Airport Road	737-9624
WESTERLY, 57 Spruce Street	596-2814
WEST WARWICK, 1330 Main St	828-6134
WOONSOCKET, 217 Pond St	762-9010

OTHER JOB SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

JOB BANK	277-3588
TJTC information	277-3726
TJTC Job Orders	277-3726
Employer Relations Unit	277-3458
Jobs for Rhode Island Graduates	277-6813
CALL-A-TEEN	
Call your local Job Service Office	
Project STEADY	277-6813

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE ACTIVITIES

	Dec 1988	Nov 1988	Dec 1987
Total Placements	531	546	667
New Applications	2,865	2,158	1,993
New Openings Received	901	1,114	862

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY ACTIVITIES

	Dec 1988	Nov 1988	% Change Nov 1988
Initial Claims	14,823	6,037	+ 145.6
No. of Payments	38,488	32,166	+ 19.6
Amt. of Payment	$ 6,494,166	$ 5,356,761	+ 21.2
Exhaustions	720	728	- 1.1

TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

	Dec 1988	Nov 1988	Dec 1987
Initial Claims	3,201	3,487	3,313
No. of Payments	27,566	24,194	26,213
Amt. of Payments	$ 4,757,643	$ 4,153,497	$ 4,253,292

RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force - Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	December 1988	November 1988	December 1987
Civilian Labor Force	540.7	534.4	525.3
Unemployment	18.7	14.6	18.4
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.5	2.7	3.5
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	3.5	3.1	3.5

PROVIDENCE

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	November 1988	October 1988	November 1987
Civilian Labor Force	348.6	344.5	343.1
Unemployment	9.0	8.3	10.2
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.6	2.4	3.0

PAWTUCKET - WOONSOCKET - ATTLEBORO

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area
Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates
(In thousands)

	November 1988	October 1988	November 1987
Civilian Labor Force	171.6	169.9	169.0
Unemployment	6.2	5.4	5.6
Rate (Unadjusted)	3.6	3.2	3.3

NEWPORT Labor Area

Labor Force-Unemployment Estimates

	November 1988	October 1988	November 1987
Civilian Labor Force	36,300	36,445	35,150
Unemployment	785	755	855
Rate (Unadjusted)	2.2	2.1	2.4

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INSURED UNEMPLOYED IN RHODE ISLAND NOVEMBER 14-18, 1988

Sex and Age	Number	Percent
Total	8,869	100.0
Men	4,507	50.8
Under 45	3,257	72.3
45 and Over	1,250	27.7
Women	4,362	49.2
Under 45	2,513	57.6
45 and Over	1,849	42.4
Industry Attachment		
Contract Construction	1,159	13.0
Manufacturing	3,191	36.0
Public Utilities	442	5.0
Wholesale and Retail	1,354	15.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	443	5.0
Service	1,511	17.0
All Other	769	8.7
Occupational Skills		
Prof., Tech. and Managerial	1,850	20.9
Clerical and Sales	1,902	21.4
Service	534	6.0
Fishery, Forestry & Rel. Occ.	104	1.2
Processing	299	3.4
Machine Trades	1,172	13.2
Bench Work	1,068	12.0
Structural Work	1,315	14.8
Miscellaneous	599	6.8
INA	26	0.3

TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT*	461.4	463.4	458.3	- 2,000	+ 3,100
MANUFACTURING	115.7	117.2	116.6	- 1,500	- 900
NONMANUFACTURING	345.7	346.2	341.7	- 500	+ 4,000
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	20.7	21.2	19.9	- 500	+ 800
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.7	15.7	15.7	0	0
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	108.9	107.8**	107.0	+ 1,100	+ 1,900
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	26.3	26.3	25.5	0	+ 800
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	115.4**	116.5**	114.4	- 1,100	+ 1,000
GOVERNMENT (Federal, State & Local)	58.7	58.7	59.2	0	- 500

1988 Figures are PRELIMINARY. 1987 Figures are REVISED. Estimates are for Pay Period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

* Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded

**Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS			Net Change From		PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings		Weekly Hours		Hourly Earnings	
	Dec. 1988	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Nov. 1988	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Dec. 1987	Dec. 1988	Dec. 1987
ALL MANUFACTURING	115.7	117.2	116.6	-1500	- 900	343.65	336.88	39.5	40.2	8.70	8.38
DURABLE GOODS	79.7	80.6	80.5	- 900	- 800	340.02	333.66	39.4	40.2	8.63	8.30
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3.1	3.1	3.0	0	+ 100	406.02	395.11	40.4	40.4	10.05	9.78
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1.8	1.8	1.8	0	0	422.40	435.35	40.0	41.7	10.56	10.44
PRIMARY METALS	5.1	5.2	5.3	- 100	- 200	423.72	408.96	40.9	42.6	10.36	9.60
FABRICATED METALS	8.7	8.8	8.9	- 100	- 200	351.43	316.79	39.8	40.1	8.83	7.90
NONELECTRIC MACH.	6.1	6.2	6.1	- 100	0	443.22	447.72	41.5	43.3	10.68	10.34
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	11.6	11.6	11.9	0	- 300	331.27	307.53	40.3	40.2	8.22	7.65
TRANSPORTATION EQUIP.	9.3	9.2	9.3	+ 100	0	449.98	449.85	39.3	40.6	11.45	11.08
INSTRUMENTS	4.6 *	4.8 *	4.8 *	- 200	- 200	344.27	340.69	39.8	41.7	8.65	8.17
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	23.4	23.9	23.3	- 500	+ 100	266.56	265.59	39.2	39.7	6.80	6.69
MISCELLANEOUS MFG.	6.0	6.0	6.1	0	- 100	290.97	252.37	38.9	35.1	7.48	7.19
NONDURABLE GOODS	36.0	36.6	36.1	- 600	- 100	353.51	343.31	39.9	40.2	8.86	8.54
FOOD-BEVERAGE	3.0	3.1	3.1	- 100	- 100	319.99	305.25	38.6	37.5	8.29	8.14
TEXTILES	10.0	10.2	10.0	- 200	0	322.36	307.34	39.7	40.6	8.12	7.57
APPAREL	2.7	2.7	2.9	0	- 200	294.58	298.74	40.8	42.8	7.22	6.98
PAPER PRODUCTS	2.3	2.4	2.4	- 100	- 100	321.57	312.36	40.5	41.1	7.94	7.60
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6.9	6.9	6.8	0	+ 100	483.44	445.39	40.9	38.1	11.82	11.69
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	3.1	3.2	3.0	- 100	+ 100	433.62	440.34	39.6	41.0	10.95	10.74
RUBBER PRODUCTS	1.0	1.1	1.1	- 100	- 100	349.67	351.94	40.1	41.6	8.72	8.46
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	4.8	4.7 *	4.7	+ 100	+ 100	349.76	348.57	39.7	41.3	8.81	8.44
LEATHER PRODUCTS	2.2	2.3	2.1	- 100	+ 100	250.52	242.87	38.9	39.3	6.44	6.18

1987 Figures REVISED. 1988 Figures are PRELIMINARY. Estimates are for pay period which includes the 12th of the month.

Compiled by THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY in cooperation with the U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

*Labor Dispute

RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
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and Nonelectrical Machinery. The sole factory increase was posted in Transportation Equipment (+100), while the remaining Durable Goods industries were unchanged from their November employment levels. On an annual basis, the most substantial job decline was evident in Electrical Machinery (-300). Also down from their year earlier totals were Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals and Instruments (-200 each), followed by a reduction of 100 in the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment. In contrast, annual employment gains of 100 each were registered in Lumber/Furniture and Jewelry-Silverware. Employment in the remaining Durable Goods industries showed no change compared to a year ago.

Among the Nondurable Goods producing industries, Textile jobs were down 200 from the previous month while decreases of 100 each were recorded in Food-Beverage, Paper Products, Chemical Products, Rubber Products and Leather Products. Contrary to this, payroll levels in Plastics Products rose 100 for the month while employment in Apparel and Printing-Publishing was unchanged. Compared to a year ago, job declines in Apparel (-200), Food-Beverage, Paper Products and Rubber Products (-100 each), more than offset upturns of 100 each in Printing-Publishing, Chemical Products, Plastics Products and Leather Products. Textile employment equalled its year earlier total.

NONMANUFACTURING

Total employment in Rhode Island's Nonmanufacturing sector fell 500 from November to December as a result of seasonal declines in Services and Contract Construction, which overshadowed continued holiday hiring in the Wholesale and Retail Trade industry. Nevertheless, the December Nonmanufacturing employment level of 345,700 was 4,000 higher than the December 1987 figure of 341,700.

Within the Nonmanufacturing sector Wholesale and Retail Trade advanced 1,100 from last month, increasing its holiday season employment level. At 108,900, this segment was up 1,900 from the same month a year ago. Employment in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, at 26,300, and Government, at 58,700, remained unchanged from the previous month. However, the former was up 800, while the latter was down 500 compared to December 1987. Transportation and Public Utilities jobs, at 15,700 posted no change on both a monthly and an annual basis. Although overall employment in the various Services categories fell by 1,100 in December to 115,400, the current level is 1,000 above the figure recorded a year earlier. Similarly, Contract Construction jobs showed a monthly downturn of 500, but the December total of 20,700 represents an annual gain of 800 workers.

HOURS AND EARNINGS

Average hourly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers rose by 4 cents to $8.70 in mid-December, this represents a gain of 32 cents compared to one year ago. The average work week decreased by 0.5 of an hour in December to 39.5 hours, which was 0.7 of an hour less than the December 1987 work week. Average weekly earnings for Rhode Island's production workers in December amounted to $343.65, representing a decline of $2.75 from last month but a gain of $6.77 compared to the same month a year ago.

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